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Ornithologist

Francis Lunney

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Ornithologist

For Leo

What he sees, he mostly sees in dreams.
Red winged-blackbird, field rough
with songbirds. He listens for the damp
growing cold, the saw-whet calls
to the black-capped chickadee.
On the table beside his lantern,
a pellet of the great horned owl:
matted fur and tiny bones.
Under night sky, he sleeps
as a mockingbird sleeps—
his arms tucked like wings.

Francis Lunney

FRANCIS LUNNEY began writing poetry while a graduate student at the University of New Hampshire. His poems have appeared in the *Owen Wister Review*, *Salamander*, and *Outside Bozeman* magazine. He works as an elementary school reading specialist in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts.